Book reviews

LOC/EX lists all currently active depository series in SuDocs order giving the root number followed by the title, and then the item number. At the beginning of each agency section the name of the agency appears in bold print set off by a band of stars. Other information following the title include frequency of publication, the numbering of the series, and alternative titles (e.g., abbreviations) by which the series is known.

Additions and deletions constitute the final two sections of LOC/EX The format is the same as the main listing except that there is a note giving the authority for the addition or deletion of the series. However, the authority is written as an abbreviation for which no table of meanings can be found. The reviewer could figure out most of them, but an explanation is needed (e.g., NCA means "new class added"). This part of LOC/EX cumulates monthly for 12 months. The sources for the changes appear to be the shipping lists of the *Monthly Catalog*.

The header contains the title, volume, issue number, date of issue, and inclusive SuDocs numbers. The headers change from SuDocs numbers to page numbers in referring to the final two sections of LOC/EX (viz, additions and deletions). The page numbers are meaningless without first checking the table of contents. Perhaps the name of the section and the coordinates would be more helpful.

The reduction ratio is 32:1. The table of contents lists all of the departments and the independent agencies with the subagencies indented, thus, aiding in quickly locating the desired page number.

Most document librarians have had the experience of having a publication or SuDocs number for a new series without being able to verify the name of the series or its predecessor, or of trying to determine the fate of a discontinued series. LOC/EX is a boon to the documents sleuth.

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Master Index to the J.F.K. Assassination Investigations: The Reports and Supporting Volumes of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and the Warren Commission. By Sylvia Meagher in collaboration with Gary Owens. Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1980. xi, 435 pp. \$20.00. ISBN 0-8108-1331-9. LC 80-17494.

In a field dominated by sensationalism, Meagher and Owens have produced a serious work which will not get headlines but will advance scholarship concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. After the tragedy of Dallas, the Warren Commission (1962-1964) and the House Select Committee on Assassinations (1976-1979) investigated the murder. Together they published forty-two volumes of information concerning it, but failed to provide adequate indexing for this material. The authors respond to this failure with an index that is essential for any library with the reports, hearings, or exhibits of either investigation.

Contrary to its title, the volume is not a master index, but rather a compilation of indexes. Part I deals with the HSCA's investigation and is divided into four sections. The first provides individual indexes to the fifteen volumes of the committee's work. The second and third present comprehensive subject and name indexes to complete the set. The fourth lists names classified under thirty-eight descriptive headings such as "Dealey Plaza Witnesses" and "Persons Linked to Conspiracy Allegations." Part II is an amended version of Meagher's earlier *Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings and Exhibits* (1966). Its first two sections provide comprehensive subject and name indexes to the twenty-seven volumes prepared by the Warren Commission. The third section is another key to names.

Obviously Meagher and Owens carefully and completely compiled the work. It is accurate, and its subject headings are specific with adequate cross-references. Yet, the nineteen different indexes in one volume cause some confusion especially since the form of entry for a particular topic may vary from index to index. Moreover, the cumulative subject index to the HSCA's investigation does not completely cover the committee's two volumes on legislative and administrative reform.

Despite these flaws, the work's over-all quality is sound. More importantly, the index provides

researchers an essential tool with which to test the differing conclusions of the Warren Commission and the HSCA against the massive amount of information which the investigators assembled.

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